

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04547 191455Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 SCA-01 SS-15 ONY-00
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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4000

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4547

STADIS

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SY, US

SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY

1. SHALOM AND TOUTAH RETURNED AFTERNOON JULY 19 WITH NEWS THAT COLONEL MASSAOUD TODAY APPROVED TRAVEL TO THE U.S. OF MRS. BOUCAI/HALWANI (YOUNG, IMPOVERISHED WIDOW WITH TWO CHILDREN) DR. BALAAS AND THREE OTHER CASES, WHICH LOCAL COMMUNITY AND SHALOM HAD BEEN URGING. MRS. BOUCAI/HALWANI PREVIOUSLY REJECTED THREE TIMES. SHALOM URGED THAT BALAAS' PASSPORT BE GRANTED IN TIME TO PERMIT HIM BEGIN STUDIES AT CONEY ISLAND HOSPITAL IN SEPTEMBER. MASSAOUD PROMISED HE WOULD DO SO.

2. MASSAOUD INDICATED TO SHALOM THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IN FUTURE MARRIAGE CASES NOT TO FOLLOW, AT LEAST NOT EXCLUSIVELY, ROUTE OF NOTARIZED STATEMENTS USED IN THE CASES OF THE FIRST 12. HE SUGGESTED THAT A SIMPLE LIST OF NAMES BE PRESENTED TO SYRIAN AMBASSADOR KABBANI FOR AMBASSADOR'S ENDORSEMENT AND FORWARDING TO DAMASCUS. IN SUCH EVENT, HE, MASSAOUD, WOULD HAVE NAMES OF SOME PARTICULARLY DESERVING CASES TO SUGGEST (SIC). COMMENT: SHALOM AND I BOTH TEND TO FEEL
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KABBANI MAY NOT BE READY ACCEPT THIS PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY. HOWEVER, I WILL BE PROBING WAYS TO ROUTINIZE FUTURE PROCEDURES IN NEXT DAYS AND WEEKS. URGED SHALOM TO SUBMIT TO YOU ANY IDEAS HE MAY DEVELOP IN THIS REGARD. SUGGEST YOU CHECK WITH SHALOM JUST HOW SPECIFIC WERE MASSAOUD'S OBJECTIONS TO USING NOTARIZED STATEMENTS.

3. THIS IS ENCOURAGING AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT
OPENING IN WAKE OF APPROVAL OF TRAVEL FOR PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE.
HOWEVER, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER MASSAOUD HAS FINAL
AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE HIS PROMISE.

4. A MASS NOTARIZATION OF THE 13 (INCLUDING ACKMAN) INTENDED
MARRIAGES WILL TAKE PLACE AT JEWISH QUARTER THIS AFTERNOON.

5. RE YOUR QUESTION PARA 4 STATE 166876, BACKGROUND PAPER
IS IN DAOUDY'S HANDS. I AGREE IT BETTER NOT ELEVATE IT TO AIDE
MEMOIRE IN LIGHT DEVELOPMENTS.

6. PLEASE TELL STEVE SOLARZ I WAS VERY TOUCHED BY HIS
MESSAGE. BUT ASK HIM IF I AM A "MENSCH," WHO IS THE
"YENTA"?
MURPHY

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